

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application and claim 1, 3, 5 and 7 have been amended, new claim 8 added, in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the Applicants regard as their invention. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **March 18, 2003**.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claims 1, 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Taking the Examiners comments into consideration, claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 3 and 5 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Kimura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,716).

Kimura et al. describes a portable computer system with a detachable keyboard in which a link unit (117) serves to link the main or system unit (10) and a keyboard (100). Pushing the push-button (117a) of the link unit (117) against the spring (118) causes the keyboard (100) to be detached from the system unit (10). The display unit (30) may be opened and closed using a link

mechanism (90) so that it folds against the system (10) and the keyboard (100) when closed and the keyboard (100) attached. An IR terminal (21) on the system unit (10) or the keyboard (100) is used for communications between the keyboard (100) and system (10) when the keyboard (100) is detached from the system unit (10). When the keyboard (100) is detached from the system unit (10), the system unit (10) acts as a base on which the display (30) may be swung back along the guide (91).

The applicant's present invention is a device for storing a keyboard (16) between a main unit (14) and a display unit (12) when not in use. A supporting member (20) having an engaging portion (20b) is utilized in an embodiment to support the keyboard (16) while not in use. Utilizing the present invention, it is possible to save space on a surface when the keyboard (16) is not in use.

The applicant's present invention differs from Kimura et al. by placing the keyboard between the main unit (14) and the display unit (12). Whereas, Kimura et al. places the keyboard (100) at the front end of the system unit (10) and not between the display unit (30) and the system unit (10).

Therefore, claims 1 and 7 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon by reciting, as exemplified by claim 1,

“An electronic apparatus detachably connected to an input device, comprising: a main unit; a display unit rotatably attached to the main unit; and a retaining mechanism retaining at least one portion of the input device into a space which is formed between the display unit and the main unit.” (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Kimura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,716) is respectfully requested.

New Claim

New claim 8 is added to this application. New claim 8 finds support in figure 4B and the associated description in the specification. New claim 8 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon by reciting,

“An electronic apparatus, comprising: a main unit; a keyboard detachable from the main unit; a display unit rotatably attached to the main unit; and a supporting member rotatably mounted to the main unit to hold the keyboard against the main unit when the supporting member is lowered and the keyboard is mounted on the supporting member, wherein when the keyboard is mounted on the supporting member and the display unit is rotated down, the keyboard is disposed in a space between the display unit and the main unit.” (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, allowance of new claim 8 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/512,884
Atty. Docket No. 000207

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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